

# MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT DATA

## New Hampshire, December 2002

### B G McKay

**Seasonally Adjusted: Total** non-farm employment for December in New Hampshire declined by 2,600 jobs in seasonally adjusted estimates. All major industrial divisions except mining posted negative employment changes. Mining remained unchanged.

The manufacturing, construction, and trade industrial divisions each trimmed 500 jobs from the rolls. Government employment followed those industrial divisions with a 400-job reduction. The transportation and public utilities industrial division cut its work force back by 300 jobs. To complete December's downward slide, the finance, insurance and real estate and the services industrial divisions each lost 200 jobs.

**Unadjusted:** The unadjusted estimates for December increased New Hampshire's employment level by 400 jobs overall.

As would be expected at this time of year, the trade industrial division expanded its ranks by 1,000 jobs. The services industrial division was the only other division to increase employment levels with its 600-job expansion.

The manufacturing, mining, and finance, insurance and real estate industrial divisions maintained their respective employment level in December at those levels established in November.

Some industrial divisions experienced a seasonal increase in employment, while others saw a seasonal slow down. The construction industrial division was one that encountered a seasonal downturn with a 700-job reduction. Government employment declined by 400 jobs in December, and transportation and public utilities had 100 fewer workers on the job during the month.

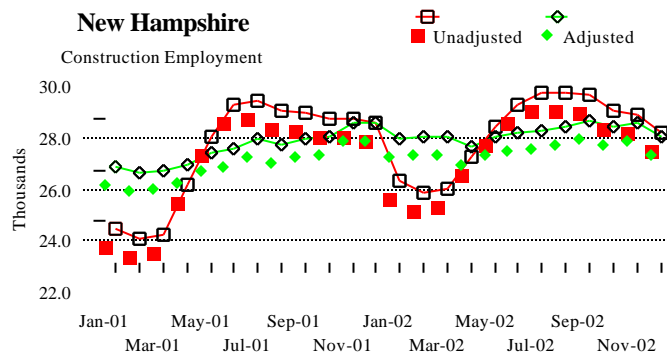
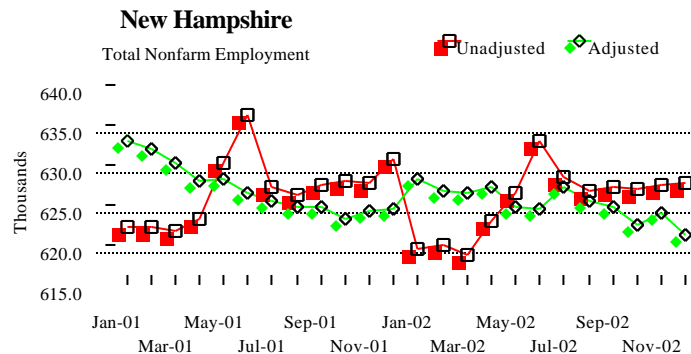
## CONSTRUCTION

**Seasonally Adjusted:** The construction industrial division ended the year on a down note with a 500-job loss in the seasonally adjusted estimates. Heavy construction contractors (SIC 16) saw its ranks trimmed by 400 jobs, and general building contractors (SIC 15) dropped 100 jobs to round out the activity for this industrial division.

**Unadjusted:** Normally at this time of year, the construction industrial division would reduce its level of activity because of the weather conditions. The division did not disappoint in December, and unadjusted estimates of employment showed that the level was down by 700 jobs. The heavy construction contractors (SIC 16) accounted for 500 of those lost jobs. Special trade contractors (SIC 17) chipped in the remaining 200 jobs.

## MANUFACTURING

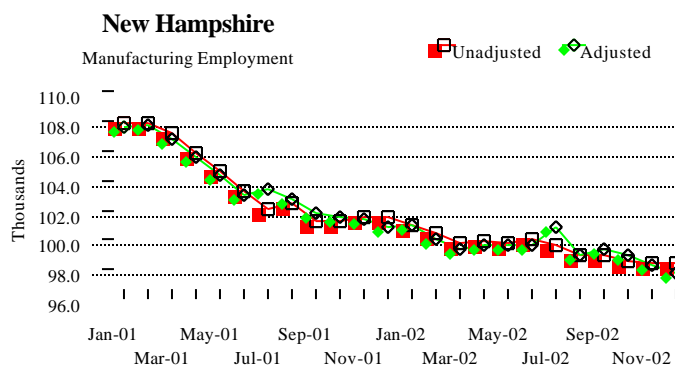
**Seasonally Adjusted:** Preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for December showed that the manufacturing industrial division lost 500 jobs. Durable goods manufacturing accounted for 300 of those lost jobs, while nondurable goods manufacturing dropped 200 jobs.



A review of the published durable goods manufacturing industries showed that electronic and other electrical equipment (SIC 36) cut back its work force by 200 jobs. Also in a slimming mode, instruments and related products (SIC 38) reduced its rolls by 100 jobs.

Not all durable goods manufacturing industries posted negative numbers for December. Industrial machinery and equipment (SIC 35) added 100 jobs to its rosters, as all other published industries in the subdivision held their employment levels steady at the previous month's level.

In the nondurable goods manufacturing sector, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products (SIC 30) found it necessary to reduce its labor force by 200 jobs. The only other seasonally adjusted publishable estimate in the nondurable goods manufacturing sector was leather and leather products (SIC 31), which added 100-jobs to December's totals.



**Unadjusted:** In a minor respite from recent trends, the manufacturing industrial division sustained its employment at the levels established in November. Within the major subdivisions, all was not as tranquil.

Three industries in durable goods manufacturing each expanded their respective labor pools by 100 jobs. Those industries were (1) lumber, wood and furniture (SICs 24 and 25), (2) primary metal industries (SIC 33), and (3) fabricated metal industries (SIC 34). Industrial machinery and equipment (SIC 35) added 200 workers to its force in December.

Not all the activity was upbeat. Electronic and other electrical equipment (SIC 36) pared 200 jobs.

The nondurable goods manufacturing subdivision had two industries increasing its rolls by 100 jobs each. Those industries were food and kindred products (SIC 20) and leather and leather products (SIC 31).

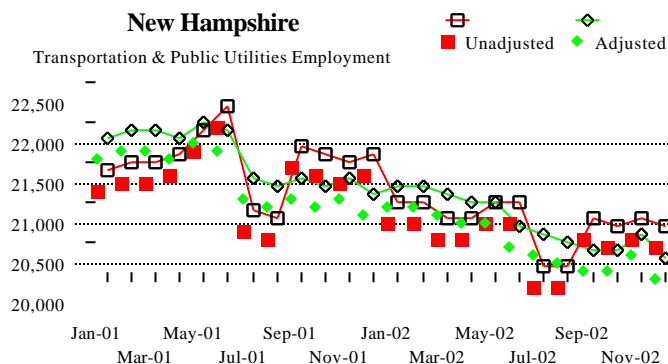
Rubber and miscellaneous plastic products (SIC 30) was the only industry in the nondurable manufacturing subdivision to show negative growth in December, as the industry dropped 100 jobs from its ranks. The remaining industries in the subdivision held their respective employment at the November levels.

## TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

**Seasonally Adjusted:** In the recent past, the transportation and public utilities industrial division has taken a slight drop in employment levels for the month of December in seasonally adjusted estimates. This year was no different, as there were 300 fewer workers on the job according to December's seasonally adjusted estimates.

**Unadjusted:** December's unadjusted estimates for the transportation and public utilities industrial division showed that the division's employment level declined by 100 jobs. At the subdivision level, transportation employment grew by 100 jobs, while communications and utilities took a 200-job hit during the month.

The sample suggested that industries in the communications area were primarily responsible for the job loss in this industrial division.



## TRADE

**Seasonally Adjusted:** The advantage to seasonally adjusted estimates is that they show employment trends after seasonal activity has been removed. Accordingly, December's adjusted estimated showed that the trade industrial division total employment dropped by 500 jobs.

Retail trade absorbed all of December's job reduction, as the count of wholesale trade employment stayed at the November total.

General merchandise stores (SIC 53) with its 200-job growth was the only published industry to post positive employment numbers for December.

Eating and drinking establishments (SIC 58) led the retail trade job losers with a 300-job reduction. Next came food stores (SIC 54) with a 200-job drop, and furniture, home furnishings and equipment stores (SIC 57) completed this trend by paring 100 jobs from the rolls.

**Unadjusted:** By comparing the two estimates for trade, it becomes evident that December for the trade industrial division is a month filled with seasonal activity. Overall, trade employment in December increased by 1,000 jobs from November's level. Wholesale trade covered 100 of the 1,000 jobs gained, and retail trade contributed the rest.

As would be expected, general merchandise stores (SIC 53) increased their staffs by 500 workers to meet the requirements of holiday shoppers. Food stores (SIC 54) added 100 workers to the rosters in December.

For eating and drinking establishments (SIC 58) historically, December has been a month which these establishments trimmed their work force. This year saw this industry reduces its cadre by 600 workers. Employment for automotive dealers and service stations (SIC 55) and furniture, home furnishings and equipment stores (SIC 57) stayed at the previous month's level.

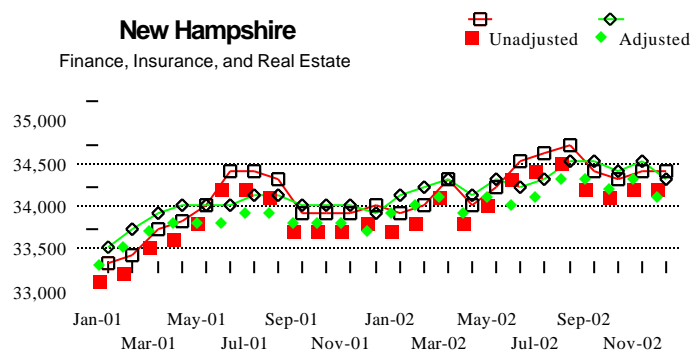
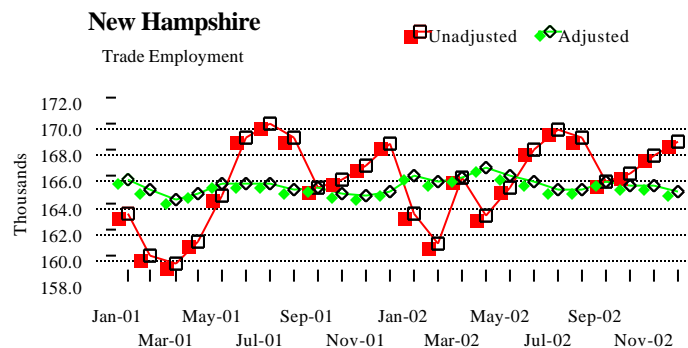
## FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE

**Seasonally Adjusted:** The 200 jobs dropped by the finance, insurance, and real estate industrial division in December's seasonally adjusted estimates seems to be a minor "course correction". The adjoining chart shows that the division's employment level has stayed reasonably constant between 34,000 and 34,500 jobs since last May. Total employment for the division has increased by 400 jobs since December 2001 in the seasonally adjusted estimates.

**Unadjusted:** The finance, insurance, and real estate industrial division maintained a status quo in terms of employment levels for the month of December.

## SERVICES

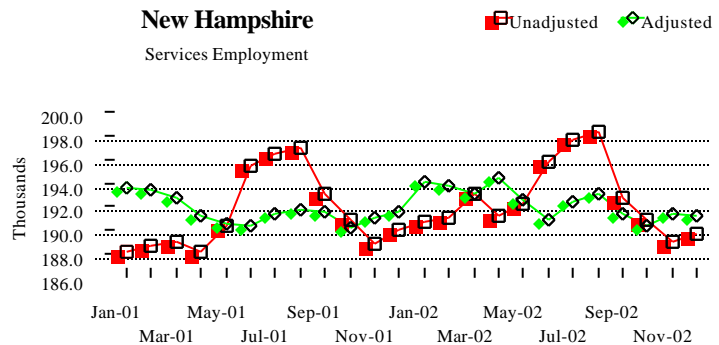
**Seasonally Adjusted:** By the seasonally adjusted estimates, employment levels in the services industrial division declined overall by 200 jobs in December. On the surface, it would appear that business services (SIC 73) would be principally responsible for the drop, as this industry reduced its employment by that amount.



Hotels and other lodging places (SIC 70), the only other published industry in this series, was unchanged in over-the-month activity.

**Unadjusted:** Although the weather in December has treated New Hampshire's ski resorts most favorably, the recent historical trends show only a slight increase in employment levels for the month. December 2002 adhered to that trend for the industrial division.

The unadjusted estimates for December showed that the services' rank and file grew by 600 jobs. Of those 600 jobs, hotels and other lodging places (SIC 70) contributed 200 jobs to the total. Health services (SIC 80) augmented its work force with 100 additional workers. December's estimated employment in business services (SIC 73) held its November level.



## GOVERNMENT

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Government employment in December declined by 400 jobs. The reduction was evenly divided between state and local government, as federal government employment held constant at the previous month's level.

**Unadjusted:** The unadjusted estimates for the number of government workers in December also showed a 400-job drop in the total.

Federal government employment increased by 400 jobs. The postal service prepared for its annual holiday surge in mail volume.

State government employment fell by 1,000 jobs as the university system took a holiday break between semesters.

Employment at the local government level was up by 200 jobs. This increase was in part made necessary by an increased need to remove snow from the roadways.

